

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7, and 9-17 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 1-5, 7, and 9-17 are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75 as failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1-5, 7, and 9-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by previously-cited Rogers et al. (US 2002/0081006 A1). Applicant respectfully traverses the objections and rejections in the following manner.

For the claim objections, claims 5 and 7 are amended to change “said memory means” to “said relating and storing means.” Also, claims 16 and 17 are amended to change to word “method” to “system.” Applicant submits that these non-narrowing amendments overcome the objections to these claims.

With regard to the term “relating,” Applicant submits that the meaning of the term is that which one of ordinary skill in the art would understand it to be. Claim 1, for example, recites relating a result of the processed abnormal pattern to a result of the corrected abnormal pattern. In other words, the method of claim 1 associates a processed abnormal pattern result with a corrected abnormal pattern result. The particular way in which the one result is related to the other result need not be claimed. Hence, this objection to the claims is hereby overcome.

Regarding the rejection of claims 1-5, 7, and 9-17, Applicant submits that the claims are not anticipated by Rogers et al. Specifically, Rogers et al. do not teach or suggest relating a result of the processed abnormal pattern to a result of the corrected abnormal pattern, for each of the plurality of items of the inputted image information, as recited in each of independent claims 1, 3, 5, and 7. The Examiner points to paragraph [0014] of the reference, in which S1 = results

decided by a doctor by observing only an original image, $S2$ = results detected with a CAD, $S3$ = results of $S2$ corrected by a doctor, and $S4 = S1 + S3$.

Paragraph [0014] indicates that the CAD system outputs $S2$ are incorporated with the radiologist's analysis to optimize the overall sensitivity of detecting true positive regions of interest. However, the recited incorporation does not correspond to relating the processed abnormal pattern result to the corrected abnormal pattern result. Rather, by incorporating the CAD system outputs with the radiologist's analysis simply means that the radiologist looks over the output $S2$ from the CAD system and creates a new subset of data $S3$ from the $S2$ output data. Selecting some of the data from $S2$ to be in a new set of data $S3$ is not the same as relating the data $S2$ to the data $S3$. In other words, each element in the subset $S3$ is not related to each element in the output $S2$. Rather, the plurality of data in $S3$ are simply selected from the plurality of data in $S2$. Thus, the selection of any subset of output $S2$ does not meet the requirements of relating a result of the processed abnormal pattern to a result of a corrected abnormal pattern, for each of the plurality of inputted information.

Furthermore, the Examiner cites this operation of Rogers et al. of forming the data $S3$ from the data $S2$ as corresponding to correcting the processed abnormal pattern. By asserting that this process also corresponds to relating a result of the processed abnormal pattern to a result of the corrected abnormal pattern, the Examiner has contradicted himself, or, at the very least, improperly cited the same teaching of the reference for two different aspects of the claims. Therefore, the claims are not anticipated by Rogers et al. for at least these reasons.

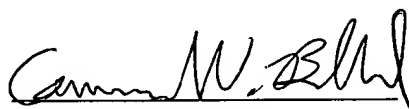
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U. S. Application No. 09/489,846

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: December 8, 2003